



# The Grange

## NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 15

MARCH 1983

### A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN ...

Certain hint of Spring in the air because of the window on maple syrup rendering which Joan Watson and her committee have done for us in the corridor. It gives one a real lift.

I will be on vacation during March and in my absence Flora Agnew and Val Cronyn will be acting Chairmen; March 1 - 15, March 15 - 30 respectively.

Don't forget our 2nd Annual Meeting April 11 at 5:30 pm in the Music Room.

### EVENTS

APRIL 9 to 16 IS THE 10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRANGE, and it will be a week of celebration.

On Saturday, April 9 the Press and Public will be invited to visit The Grange.

As well, between April 9 and 16 - all AGO Volunteers are invited to come and visit The Grange between 12 and 4 pm.

GRANGE ANNUAL MEETING - Please put Monday, April 11 on your calendar. The meeting will be held in The Music Room at 5:30 pm. The meeting last year was a great success, and this one should be a repeat, so don't forget to come.

Another "don't forget" is the SERIES OF SLIDE TALK LECTURES. They will be given at both 10:30 am and 6 pm on Thursdays. The Public is invited to attend the free nights, and participate in the discussion afterwards.

March 10 - Restoration film of The Grange - 40 minutes

April 14 - Trips and travels in the Canadas prior to 1850. Presented by Andr  e Accette.

May 12 - Toronto 1834. Presented by Alice Gray.

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MISCELLANEOUS

David Wistow, M.A., of the AGO will give a 3-week course on THE ENGLISH COUNTRY HOUSE. It will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 11 and 18 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. He will discuss the architecture, collections and owners of great English houses from the Renaissance to the First World War. Included will be such famous examples as Longleat, Castle Howard and Waddesdon, home of the Rothschilds. Members \$10.00 - Non-Members \$15.00. Tickets available from Scheduling Office, Education Services of AGO.

Jean Gray would like to remind all Volunteers that there is an EXHIBITION OF BRIDAL FINERY through the last 100 years, at The Joseph Brant Museum, 1240 North Shore Boulevard East, Burlington, Ontario. Can be seen until March 31, 1983.

Jean would also like to draw to our attention that the Ontario Historical Society presents interesting seminars and workshops on many facets of costuming and dress. Anyone interested in this would find it worth while to join.

Some of the Volunteers will be interested in a special series of Wednesday Luncheons and Tours, at the Canadiana Building of the ROM. The title of the series is: A DIARY OF A LADY IN EARLY CANADA. They will be held on April 8, 15, 22 and 29. Tickets for each luncheon/tour \$5.50. For reservations and further information call, Elsa at 978-4291.

Our apologies to Lynn Anson-Cartwright for the ~~mistake~~ made in the February 1983 Newsletter. Lynn and Sheila Badgley presented the talk "Furniture of the 19th Century" on February 10, rather than Liz McKeown and Sheila Badgley, as listed in the Newsletter.

Many visitors have asked why the grandfather clock in the hallway is so named. It seems that an American composer, Henry Clay Work, wrote a song entitled "My grandfather's clock" in 1876. The idea for the song came from Work seeing a longcase clock in Piecebridge, Yorkshire which was referred to as the clock owned by the grandfather of the house. When the song became popular, people began to refer to longcase clocks as the "grandfather clock". It is 6'6" or more in height and was first made in England in 1658.

The beginning of the song is:

My grandfather's clock was too big for the  
shelf,  
So it stood ninety years on the floor.

The Grange Executive has purchased the travelling trunk that Goldwin Smith owned. It is hoped that it can be on display in, or by, the Library.



In case everyone does not know of the new rules re: the Cloakroom. All Volunteers coats have to be handed to a Cloakroom Attendant, at which time they will be given a claim tag. On Mondays or before hours Security will open the door and let us hang our coats in the room. At which time each person should take a numbered tag.

Mary Aziz has some information on an interesting series of tours that Margaret McBurney and Mary Byers are leading, concentrating on the architecture of Ontario. There are 10 one-day tours in the series and they have been organized by Mary Sutherland Tours. For more information call Mary Sutherland Tours at 264-3261.

Some very observant visitors have asked why the glass which is resting in the wine cooler, in the glass case in the Ante-room, does not have a foot. The glass is actually a stirrup cup. The term originated with the custom of giving a mounted rider (either huntsman or traveller) a final drink when he was about to depart. The cups were supported in a wooden frame much like an ice-cream holder, and were handed up to the rider. It has been the custom in The Grange that each Governor General since Lord Landsdowne has toasted his Sovereign upon his first visit to The Grange. Our present Governor General Schreyer did so when he visited here.

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#### BOOK REVIEW

Aristocratic Toronto: 19th Century Grandeur. Lucy Booth Martyn, Gage Publishing Limited, Toronto. 1980. 224 pages.

Aristocratic Toronto briefly explores the history of the grand families who occupied these homes, where they came from, what brought them here, and why they chose to build where they did. Sadly, only a few of the great homes are still standing, but photographs and maps show the houses in their original grandeur.

The Author has also written Toronto: 100 years of grandeur.

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